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Brody helps launch HSIN R3

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Brody helps launch HSIN R3

Center for Homeland Defense and Security Cohort 1001/1002 Masters alum Mike Brody is proud to say he's a part of the team that recently, successfully launched HSIN Release 3 (HSIN R3) – the new and improved HSIN that is more secure, capable and interoperable. HSIN recently celebrated the launch of R3 at a rollout event in DC on September 26.

As policy, outreach and communications manager for HSIN, Brody's job is making sure that all 40,000 of HSIN's users get the support, training, rules, and marketing needed to accomplish their information sharing mission and tell their success stories.

HSIN is our nation's focal point for the sharing of unclassified information between DHS and its partners at all levels of government and the private sector. It is mission-based, trusted, and interoperable, according to DHS. Users from every part of the homeland security enterprise are able to use HSIN to securely share Sensitive but Classified/Controlled Unclassified Information (SBU/CUI) within and across their communities of interest. HSIN R3 is a more secure environment - all users have their identities verified during registration and authenticate their identity when they log on.

HSIN R3 is a mission proven network. It is actively used in all the nation's fusion centers, a growing number of operations centers at the federal, state and local levels, and by major corporate security directors. The network has been used by agencies partnering in major events such as Super Bowl XLVII, disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion, and attacks such as the Boston Marathon bombings.

"About two years ago, responding to feedback and guidance from Office of Budget Management and our user base we got a clear message that HSIN needed to be updated dramatically," Brody said. "HSIN R3 represents a major advancement of HSIN. HSIN R3 is a significantly more advanced, secure and capable network. It's supported by strong service operations and outreach teams, and has a new governance structure that is ensuring accountability to all of our users."

With HSIN R3, users will now have access to more advanced document management capabilities, improved versions of popular features like secure chat, instant messaging, and web conferencing, along with customizable alerts, notifications, and geographic information systems mapping capability.

For the past 18 months, the DHS team working on the project has been migrating 40,000 users, 141 communities of interest and about a terabyte of user data from HSIN Legacy to the new, HSIN R3. The team did this while maintaining the full operation of HSIN Legacy through major incidents like the Boston Marathon bombing, where HSIN saw extensive use by Federal, state and local intelligence officers nationwide.

"HSIN R3's improved features and greater security are just the start of what R3 is going to offer in the coming months," Brody noted. "Release 3 is the start of interoperable and federated access to a much larger world of homeland security information sources – that means breaking down stovepipes. In the coming months, you're going to hear a lot more about HSIN becoming your trusted front door to homeland security information."

In working on the project Brody was able to draw on his CHDS experience and the multi-disciplinary viewpoints fellow students offered. CHDS alumni keep Brody honest – when he hears that HSIN is doing better, or needs improvement from his 1001/1002 buddies, he knows he's getting the truth.

"In my role I need to understand the needs of different homeland security users that use our network every day to conduct vital missions," he said. "CHDS has tremendously helped me do that job by giving me a deeper understanding of who makes up the homeland security enterprise and what their information needs are."

Input from fellow alumni will be especially valuable in refining HSIN3.

"We want the CHDS community to know about what we are doing," Brody said. "They are vital leaders in every aspect of homeland security in the country. We need their engagement and they need to know HSIN R3 can support their missions."



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For more information on HSIN Release 3, visit www.dhs.gov/homeland-security-information-network or contact HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov

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